

Guadalupe Jaramillo

From: Hamish Thomson
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 1:47 PM
To: Quentin Wilson
Subject: RE: Automotive building at NNMC Espanola Campus

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for the clarification. We also appreciated the commitment and dedication of the El Rito group we met with.

Respectfully,

Hamish Thomson

From: Quentin Wilson [mailto:qcw87575@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Hamish Thomson <Hamish.Thomson@osa.state.nm.us>
Subject: Automotive building at NNMC Espanola Campus

Greetings Mr. Thompson,

I was at the meeting between community members and the impressive group from the State Auditor's Office in the boardroom at Las Clinicas Del Norte last week regarding Northern New Mexico College.

I am the person who stated that the College planned to change the use of the Automotive Building on the Espanola Campus from instructional purposes to use by the Facilities Department for storage and maintenance purposes. I also stated that it was a \$5.2million dollar building.

I was wrong. Apparently the Provost, whether it was the past Provost Anthony Serna or the present Provost Pedro Martinez, curtailed that proposed change and the building will remain in the instructional category. Secondly, as I understand it, the cost was \$1.5million from some federal economic development grant with the College matching the grant. Therefore, the cost of the building was \$3million.

Regards and apologies,

Quentin Wilson
La Madera, NM
505-583-2356

Felipe Martinez Statement—NNMC Board of Regents 12/21/15

I am Maximiliano Felipe Martinez. I am a rancher living in El Rito and also work part-time as a school bus driver for the Mesa Verde Schools. I am formerly a two-term Rio Arriba County Commissioner serving El Rito and other communities in the northern third of the county. I am the chair of the El Rito Citizens' Caucus and was a member of the now-defunct El Rito Campus Committee, which operated under the authority of Northern's Board of Regents in 2009-2011. I am an official of our regional *acequia* in El Rito and a member of one of our local stockmen's associations.

Many of my neighbors and constituents are currently or formerly students or employees of NNMC. I am directly related to the school's founder, Venceslao Jaramillo, and I am one of the founding members of la **Sociedad Venceslao Jaramillo**.

My father attended what is now NNMC back in the days when the institution was a normal school and was trained as a teacher; he went on to teach in elementary schools of the North based on his training at the Spanish-American Normal School in El Rito.

My family has been in these parts since Spanish Colonial Times.

I speak to you as someone who knows a bit about Northern's history and the educational needs of the North.

Please be reminded that El Rito is the legal seat of the college according to the state constitution.

In establishing the qualifications criteria for a new president—and I assume that any applicant for the job needs to be aware of what goals you will be mandating for the new president—please consider the following goals as elements of the “call” for qualified applicants.

1. That the new president work diligently to resurrect the campus in El Rito as a core facility of the college;

- 2 That the new president work closely with local high schools to operate meaningful dual-credit programs—as required by state law. As one example of Northern's failure in this area, I draw your attention to the fact that the Mesa Vista High School must bus its dual-credit students all the way to Taos to attend those classes at a UNM facility. The Northern administration, in place until the recent departures of top administrators, has refused to offer dual-credit courses to Mesa Vista students or to work with the Mesa Vista School Board on proposals regarding the use of Northern's home campus in El Rito.

3. That the new president develop a program to restore Northern's historic mission as a community college and to offer a curriculum that truly serves the vocational and other educational needs of community residents. You could use as a benchmark for fulfillment of this goal that point in time some 10 years ago when Northern dropped the "community" from its name and began the process of not only destroying the campus and programs in El Rito--then vital elements of the school--as well as eliminating those programs that did serve the needs of vocational and continuing-education students who were not necessarily intending yet to participate in advanced degree programs.

4. That the new president explore the possibility of Northern being absorbed into another state institution of higher learning—New Mexico State University for example—that would be capable of using its resources and expertise to salvage the remnants of this college. State, as a reminder, already operates two programs in Rio Arriba and has expertise in operating a community college—as a subsidiary entity—in Dona Ana County.

John Ussery
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Representative Ben Ray Lujan
811 St Michaels Dr, Suite 104
Santa Fe, NM 87505

November 2, 2013

My name is John Ussery and I have been living in El Rito, NM, since 1976 when I came here to work for Appropriate Technologies with Peter van Dresser. I am writing this letter because I am seriously concerned about what appears to be a determined attempt to destroy the programs on the Northern New Mexico College El Rito campus. During much of the time I've lived here the College has been a center of activity that served many needs for the surrounding communities. While it was a Community College, one could obtain many services provided by students who were learning many useful trades. One could have one's car or truck repaired by the Automotive or Diesel Mechanic programs, get a haircut or a styling at Cosmetology, have a cow or lamb butchered at the Meat Cutting department, or find a supervised apprentice to do Electrical or Plumbing work through the Trades program. The Adobe and Solar construction program was a world famous training center for these technologies. None of these now remain at the El Rito campus,

Until recently, the El Rito campus served as THE place to go to learn the traditional arts of Weaving and Spanish Colonial Furniture making. Set in the middle of the forests and rangelands of north central New Mexico, the El Rito campus is an ideal location for a center for research and training in forestry and sustainable resource management. The Wildland Fire Academy served a real need in training local youth to become professional firefighters to work with the US Forest Service and other agencies.

Only shadows of these programs now remain as occasional Continuing Education courses. This isn't because there is no interest in learning these above skills or in preserving these centuries' old traditions. It seems like it is only due to some unannounced hidden plan to move all programs to Espanola and to make a failure out of the NNMC El Rito campus. This trend became particularly pronounced after Northern NM Community College was made into a four year degree granting College and dropped "Community" from its name.

In 2009 local community members became so concerned about the erosion of El Rito campus programs and the relocating of most of them to the Espanola campus, that they formed the El Rito Campus Community Committee. They met many times with officials from NNMC who were always assured that there was every intention of building up the El Rito campus facility with programs appropriate to its location and in assuring its continued future.

Shortly after Rusty Barceló was chosen as the new president of the College in 2010, she spoke of how important the El Rito campus was and how the College was working on making it a vibrant center for training and research. The future of the campus looked pretty bright when Melissa Velasquez was appointed as interim director and plans were announced for the creation of The Innovation Center at

Northern NM College on the El Rito campus. This center would provide laboratory, housing and dining facilities field school programs from around the country that use the resources of the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests and the diverse geology and hydrology of the area for research and training. Grants were obtained to install a Geographical Information System (GIS) lab, a 3D Wildfire Modeling system and a Soils Science lab that would facilitate these programs. Environmental Science programs were developed to work with the area's elementary and secondary school teachers and students to enhance their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs.

Just as another round of proposals was being prepared for the submittal of fundable high visibility grants for innovative and relevant projects centered on the El Rito campus, Melissa was asked to relocate or resign. Although she had been given the title of Campus Director, she had problems all along with College administrators closing programs and firing El Rito staff without her participation in the decision making. All decisions were made by Domingo Sanchez, the College CFO, and dealt out autocratically. There was a pattern where anyone who objected was either demoted or fired. Melissa wasn't even allowed access to the financial plans for El Rito, or even the monetary allocations for the programs she administered. This seems to be a complete betrayal of all the promises made to the community by President Rusty Barceló and her cohorts. By obtaining funds to build laboratories and initiate programs and then not continuing these programs, the College may actually be committing fraud against the funders of these grants.

Congressman Lujan, the last time I met with you was at fundraiser for the New Energy Economy, where we talked briefly about biomass fuels and the possibility of making the NNM El Rito campus a net zero energy consumption facility with its entire thermal and electrical requirements met using sustainable local resources. The College spent a half million dollars of ARRA funds in 2010-2011 on the El Rito campus district heating system that prepared it to distribute heat from a variety of thermal sources, including the use of biomass fuels from forest thinning, to warm its main buildings and to apply networked sensors and controls to increase the efficiency of energy use. The US Forest Service is nearing completion of a 60,000 acre environmental analysis of the El Rito watershed. It is planning over 6000 acres of hazardous fuel reduction which will provide many jobs and a variety opportunities for research and training related to wildfire prevention and the use of local lumber, biomass fuels, and other forest resources. This is a very opportune time to be applying the facilities of the NNM El Rito campus towards becoming a showcase for the application of state of the art science and technology in addressing the national need for forest management and fire prevention, not the time to be shutting down new facilities before they are even used. Please help all those who are concerned about the situation in El Rito to reverse the detrimental changes going on there and to help us bring the campus back to life.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely

John Ussery

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Ussery', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Report to OSA Fraud and Abuse Line 9/3/13

866-672-3728 866-OSA Fraud

Justine

Case #118529009

Check back on 9/17/13 to see what action has been taken